



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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***Statement by Montgomery County
Council President Blair G. Ewing
Regarding House Bill 10, Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia
Joint Legislative Commission on Interstate Transportation –
Regional Transportation Authority Study***

Regional cooperation between jurisdictions within the metropolitan Washington area is important to addressing a whole host of common problems we all face, not least of them the issue of increasing transportation options and mobility for area residents.

The Montgomery County Council supports House Bill 10 only with the following amendments:

- 1) In Section 1(a), we would substitute "...study whether or not to establish..." for "...study the issue of establishing..." It is not clear on the face of it that a regional transportation authority could do anything more than is already possible under law and may, in fact, just impose yet another layer of government. Therefore, we ought to look seriously at whether or not such an authority is needed before we move on to other questions that depend on the answer to the first.
- 2) In Section 1(a)(5), we would substitute "compliance with local land use plans and policies" for "coordination of land use policies." Any regional transportation authority must be based on respect for and compliance with local land use plans and policies.
- 3) In Section 1 (c), we would add "the local elected officials in the affected counties and municipalities" to the list of persons receiving copies of the Commission's reports and recommendations. (more...)

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This Council takes very seriously the need for action on transportation, as reflected in our balanced program of road improvements and transit enhancements now underway. We are committed to approaches that can work now to mitigate congestion, consistent with parallel efforts to improve our County's quality of life, preserve the environment for our children and grandchildren, and keep faith with our neighborhoods.

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